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A

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A/RES/45/237
7 February 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 123

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/795)]

45/237. Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/218 of 21 December 1987 and other recent relevant resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on its activities during the period 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1990, 1/ the work programme of the Unit for 1990 and the nucleus of its work programme for 1991-1992 2/ and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit, 3/

Expressing its appreciation to the Joint Inspection Unit for the reform measures it has introduced to improve further its working methods and the quality of its work,

Reiterating the importance of a detailed and timely consideration of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, particularly by Member States and the organizations concerned,

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/45/34).

2/ A/45/117, annex.

3/ A/45/441.

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Urging the executive heads and governing bodies of participating organizations of the Joint Inspection Unit to take full advantage of the resources of the Unit and to give due attention to its reports and recommendations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit 1/ and of its work programme for 1990 2/ and of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit; 3/

2. Encourages the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to take into account the following measures in order to enhance further the usefulness of its reports to the governing bodies of the participating organizations:

(a) To take a more selective approach in drawing up its work programme to give greater attention to management, budgetary and administrative issues, including those identified by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report on the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and by the Board of Auditors in its audit opinions and reports, as well as those areas of the United Nations system undergoing reform;

(b) To make every possible effort to issue its reports well in advance of the meetings of the governing bodies of its participating organizations, in particular the General Assembly, and of the relevant subsidiary bodies, to ensure that the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, where pertinent, are issued in accordance with existing regulations for the timely receipt of documentation;

(c) To make every effort to shorten its reports, using comparative tables and graphics whenever appropriate, and to include therein an executive summary of its recommendations in order to facilitate the consideration of its reports;

(d) To provide a more detailed commentary in its annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of its recommendations by the United Nations and by the other participating organizations of the Unit;

(e) To concentrate on specific and practical operational problems and to address more precisely defined questions;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to review, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, the research and analytical capacity of the secretariat of the Joint Inspection Unit in order to enhance its performance, with due respect to the statute of the Unit;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on budgeting in organizations of the United Nations system, 4/ which may encourage the harmonization of procedures within the United Nations system, and in particular

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4/ See A/45/130.

the recommendations contained therein to facilitate a more equitable and comparable development of budgeting of the organizations in the system, as well as the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the report; 5/

5. Requests the Secretary-General and the Joint Inspection Unit, in bringing to the attention of the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system all reports of the Unit on matters within their respective spheres of competence, to arrange for the earliest possible introduction of reports of the Unit;

6. Invites Governments that are represented on the governing bodies of organizations and programmes for which the Joint Inspection Unit has issued reports to ensure that the reports are given full consideration;

7. Encourages all governing bodies of the organizations and programmes to invite, when appropriate, a representative of the Joint Inspection Unit to be present at their meetings when considering the reports of the Unit;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the executive heads of the participating organizations of the Joint Inspection Unit and to transmit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on actions taken by those organizations to enhance consideration of the reports of the Unit by their respective governing bodies.

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21 December 1990

5/ A/45/130/Add.1, annex.

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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/879)]

45/238. Pattern of conferences

A

Report of the Committee on Conferences

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences, 1/

Taking note of the various conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Conferences as included in its report,

Recalling its resolution 44/196 A of 21 December 1989,

1. Approves the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1991 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences; 2/

2. Requests the Committee on Conferences to review, within its mandate, the existing procedures with regard to inter-sessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences and meetings and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 32 and addendum and corrigendum (A/45/32 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

2/ Ibid., annex II.

3. Authorizes the Committee on Conferences to make adjustments in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1991 that may become necessary as a result of action and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

4. Calls upon the Committee on Conferences to continue to explore new ways to improve its effectiveness in carrying out its mandate as approved by the General Assembly;

5. Notes the efforts made by a number of United Nations organs to improve the utilization of conference-servicing resources;

6. Invites United Nations bodies, in making requests for conference services in accordance with their respective mandates, to ensure that the conference services requested are sufficient to enable them to carry out their tasks fully and that they match, to the extent possible, their actual requirements;

7. Urges all United Nations organs and bodies to intensify their efforts to improve their utilization of requested conference-servicing resources;

8. Calls upon the Committee on Conferences to consider, within its mandate, further measures to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the use of conference-servicing resources, bearing in mind the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 3/ as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

9. Requests the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences and the Secretary-General to maintain their contacts with all United Nations organs in order to ensure the most efficient and effective use of conference services allocated to those organs;

10. Requests the Chairmen of United Nations organs to bring the concerns about the utilization of conference-servicing resources to the attention of the organs concerned;

11. Requests the Committee on Conferences, in implementing the new methodology on conference-servicing utilization rates, to consider additional elements proposed in the discussions in the Fifth Committee and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

12. Also requests the Committee on Conferences to remain seized of the matter of the improved utilization of conference-servicing resources on the basis of further reports from the Secretary-General;

3/ Ibid., Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

13. Welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General in the area of system-wide co-ordination of conference services and invites him in this regard to use more extensively the co-ordinating potential of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions;

14. Also welcomes the revised work-load standards for conference-servicing staff, which, as noted in section II, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 45/248 A of 21 December 1990, reflect a further step towards enhanced productivity of conference-servicing staff;

15. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of continuing investments in technologies, to continue to explore ways to achieve optimum use of all resources in the area of conference-servicing.

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B

Control and limitation of documentation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/196 B of 21 December 1989,

Recalling also its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

Taking into account the continuing financial crisis and the need to improve efficiency and effectiveness,

1. Requests the Committee on Conferences to continue to review the question of the provision of summary records on a regular basis and to report thereon to the General Assembly as appropriate;

2. Decides that, pending a further decision of the General Assembly on the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences, no subsidiary organ of the Assembly shall be entitled to summary records, with the exception of the following:

(a) Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;

(b) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(c) International Law Commission;

(d) Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(e) Special Committee against Apartheid;

(f) United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;

3. Decides that summary records shall continue to be provided to regular and special sessions of the following governing bodies: the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme;

4. Renews its appeal to Member States to exercise restraint in their requests for the circulation of communications as United Nations documents and to keep their submissions as brief as possible;

5. Also renews its appeal to Member States and organizations of the United Nations system to respond in a timely manner to requests for information for inclusion in documents;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to ensure that pre-session documents for meetings are distributed not less than six weeks before the meetings, simultaneously in all official languages of the organs of the United Nations, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 33/56 of 14 December 1978 and 36/117 B of 10 December 1981, and to circulate eight weeks before the opening of a session of an intergovernmental body, with the annotated agenda of the session, a report on the state of preparation at that time of all the documents in all languages required for the session;

7. Requests the secretariats of subsidiary organs to bring the recommendations of the General Assembly on the desirable thirty-two-page limit for their reports to the Assembly to the attention of the subsidiary organs at the start of substantive sessions;

8. Requests that intergovernmental organs exercise restraint in their authorization of recurrent publications;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to maximize the use of internal printing facilities, revising the format of United Nations documents for which external printing is now required, as appropriate;

10. Requests the Committee on Conferences to keep the matter under review and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

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